



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5400

LCO No. 1881



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN EDUCATION
PERSONNEL RECORDS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall (1) require each
4 applicant for [a position in a public school] employment to state
5 whether such [person] applicant has ever been convicted of a crime or
6 whether criminal charges are pending against such [person at the time
7 of such person's application] applicant, (2) [(A) on and after July 1,
8 2011,] require each applicant [for a position in a public school
9 requiring a certificate, authorization or permit issued pursuant to
10 chapter 166] to submit to a records check of the Department of
11 Children and Families child abuse and neglect registry established
12 pursuant to section 17a-101k, before such applicant may be hired by
13 such board, [and (B) on and after July 1, 2012, require each applicant
14 for a position in a public school that does not require a certificate,
15 authorization or permit issued pursuant to chapter 166 to submit to a

16 records check of the Department of Children and Families child abuse
17 and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, before
18 such applicant may be hired by such board,] (3) on and after July 1,
19 2016, require, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section,
20 each [person hired by the board after July 1, 1994,] applicant for a
21 position to submit to state and national criminal history records checks
22 [within thirty days from the date of] prior to any offer of employment
23 by a local or regional board of education and may require, subject to
24 the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, any person hired prior
25 to said date to submit to state and national criminal history records
26 checks, [and] (4) on and after July 1, 2016, prior to offering any offer of
27 employment to an applicant, comply with the provisions of section 10-
28 222c, as amended by this act, and (5) require each worker (A) placed
29 within a school under a public assistance employment program, (B)
30 employed by a provider of supplemental services pursuant to the No
31 Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or (C) [on and after July 1, 2010,] in
32 a nonpaid, noncertified position completing preparation requirements
33 for the issuance of an educator certificate pursuant to chapter 166, who
34 performs a service involving direct student contact to submit to state
35 and national criminal history records checks [within thirty days from
36 the date] before such worker begins to perform such service. The
37 criminal history records checks required by this subsection shall be
38 conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. If the local or regional
39 board of education receives notice of a conviction of a crime which has
40 not previously been disclosed by such person to the board, the board
41 may (i) terminate the contract of a certified employee, in accordance
42 with the provisions of section 10-151, and (ii) dismiss a noncertified
43 employee, provided such employee is notified of the reason for such
44 dismissal, is provided the opportunity to file with the board, in
45 writing, any proper answer to such criminal conviction and a copy of
46 the notice of such criminal conviction, the answer and the dismissal
47 order are made a part of the records of the board. In addition, if the
48 local or regional board of education receives notice of a conviction of a
49 crime by a person (I) holding a certificate, authorization or permit

50 issued by the State Board of Education, (II) employed by a provider of
51 supplemental services, or (III) [on and after July 1, 2010,] in a nonpaid,
52 noncertified position completing preparation requirements for the
53 issuance of an educator certificate pursuant to chapter 166, the local or
54 regional board of education shall send such notice to the State Board of
55 Education. The supervisory agent of a private school may require any
56 applicant for a position in such school or any employee of such school
57 to submit to state and national criminal history records checks in
58 accordance with the procedures described in this subsection.

59 (b) If a local or regional board of education, endowed or
60 incorporated academy approved by the State Board of Education
61 pursuant to section 10-34, or special education facility approved by the
62 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-76d requests, a
63 regional educational service center shall arrange for the fingerprinting
64 of any person required to submit to state and national criminal history
65 records checks pursuant to this section or for conducting any other
66 method of positive identification required by the State Police Bureau of
67 Identification or the Federal Bureau of Investigation and shall forward
68 such fingerprints or other positive identifying information to the State
69 Police Bureau of Identification which shall conduct criminal history
70 records checks in accordance with section 29-17a. Such regional
71 educational service center shall maintain such fingerprints or other
72 positive identifying information, which may be in an electronic format,
73 for a period of four years, at the end of which such fingerprints and
74 positive identifying information shall be destroyed. Such regional
75 educational service centers shall provide the results of such checks to
76 such local or regional board of education, endowed or incorporated
77 academy or special education facility. Such regional educational
78 service centers shall provide such results to any other local or regional
79 board of education or regional educational service center upon the
80 request of such person.

81 (c) State and national criminal history records checks for substitute
82 teachers completed within one year prior to the date of employment

83 with a local or regional board of education and submitted to the
84 employing board of education shall meet the requirements of
85 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section. A local or regional
86 board of education shall not require substitute teachers to submit to
87 state and national criminal history records checks pursuant to
88 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section if they are continuously
89 employed by such local or regional board of education. For purposes
90 of this section, substitute teachers shall be deemed to be continuously
91 employed by a local or regional board of education if they are
92 employed at least one day of each school year by such local or regional
93 board of education.

94 (d) (1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person
95 required to submit to a criminal history records check pursuant to the
96 provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-44.

97 (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a student
98 employed by the local or regional school district in which the student
99 attends school.

100 (3) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section requiring state
101 and national criminal history records checks shall, at the discretion of a
102 local or regional board of education, apply to a person employed by a
103 local or regional board of education as a teacher for a noncredit adult
104 class or adult education activity, as defined in section 10-67, who is not
105 required to hold a teaching certificate pursuant to section 10-145b for
106 his or her position.

107 (e) The State Board of Education shall submit, periodically, a
108 database of applicants for an initial issuance of certificate,
109 authorization or permit pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149,
110 inclusive, to the State Police Bureau of Identification. The State Police
111 Bureau of Identification shall conduct a state criminal history records
112 check against such database and notify the State Board of Education of
113 any such applicant who has a criminal conviction. The State Board of

114 Education shall not issue a certificate, authorization or permit until it
115 receives and evaluates the results of such check and may deny an
116 application in accordance with the provisions of subsection (i) of
117 section 10-145b.

118 (f) The State Board of Education shall submit, periodically, a
119 database of all persons who hold certificates, authorizations or permits
120 to the State Police Bureau of Identification. The State Police Bureau of
121 Identification shall conduct a state criminal history records check
122 against such database and shall notify the State Board of Education of
123 any such person who has a criminal conviction. The State Board of
124 Education may revoke the certificate, authorization or permit of such
125 person in accordance with the provisions of subsection (i) of section 10-
126 145b.

127 (g) The State Board of Education shall require each applicant
128 seeking an initial issuance or renewal of a certificate, authorization or
129 permit pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, to submit to a
130 records check of the Department of Children and Families child abuse
131 and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. If
132 notification is received that the applicant is listed as a perpetrator of
133 abuse or neglect on the Department of Children and Families child
134 abuse and neglect registry, the board shall deny an application for the
135 certificate, authorization or permit in accordance with the provisions of
136 subsection (i) of section 10-145b, or may revoke the certificate,
137 authorization or permit in accordance with the provisions of said
138 subsection (i).

139 (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of section 31-
140 51i, the Department of Education shall make available to any local or
141 regional board of education requesting information concerning an
142 applicant for a position with such board (1) any information
143 concerning the applicant's eligibility for employment in a position with
144 such board, (2) whether the department has knowledge that the
145 applicant has been disciplined for a finding of abuse or sexual

146 misconduct, as defined in section 10-222c, as amended by this act, and
147 any information concerning such a finding, and (3) whether the
148 department has received notification of criminal charges pending
149 against the applicant and any information concerning such charges.

150 Sec. 2. Section 10-222c of the general statutes is repealed and the
151 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

152 (a) No local or regional board of education shall offer employment
153 to an applicant for a position, including any position which is
154 contracted for, if such applicant would have direct student contact,
155 prior to such board:

156 (1) Requiring of such applicant:

157 (A) To list the name, address and telephone number of each current
158 or former employer of the applicant, provided any such current or
159 former employer was a local or regional board of education or if such
160 employment otherwise caused the applicant to have contact with
161 children;

162 (B) A written authorization that (i) consents to and authorizes
163 disclosure by the employers listed under subparagraph (A) of this
164 subdivision of the information requested under subdivision (2) of this
165 subsection and the release of related records by such employers, and
166 (ii) releases those employers from liability that may arise from such
167 disclosure or release of records pursuant to subdivision (2) of this
168 subsection; and

169 (C) A written statement of whether the applicant (i) has been the
170 subject of an abuse or sexual misconduct investigation by any
171 employer, state agency or municipal police department, unless the
172 investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were false, (ii)
173 has ever been disciplined or asked to resign from employment or
174 resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while an
175 allegation of abuse or sexual misconduct was pending or under

176 investigation, or due to a finding of abuse or sexual misconduct, or (iii)
177 has ever had a professional or occupational license or certificate
178 suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such a license or
179 certificate while an allegation of abuse or sexual misconduct was
180 pending or under investigation, or due to a finding of abuse or sexual
181 misconduct;

182 (2) Conducting a review of the employment history of the applicant
183 by submitting to those employers listed by the applicant under
184 subdivision (1) of this subsection a form developed by the Department
185 of Education in accordance with section 3 of this act that shall request
186 (A) the dates of employment of the applicant, (B) a statement as to
187 whether the employer has knowledge that the applicant (i) was the
188 subject of any abuse or sexual misconduct investigation by any
189 employer, state agency or municipal police department, unless such
190 investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were false; (ii)
191 was disciplined or asked to resign from employment or resigned from
192 or otherwise separated from any employment while an allegation of
193 abuse or sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or
194 due to a finding of abuse or sexual misconduct; or (iii) has ever had a
195 professional or occupational license or certificate suspended or
196 revoked or has ever surrendered such a license or certificate while an
197 allegation of abuse or sexual misconduct was pending or under
198 investigation, or due to a finding of abuse or sexual misconduct.
199 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of section 31-51i, not
200 later than twenty days after any current employer of the applicant and
201 not later than sixty days after any former employer of the applicant
202 receives a form requesting such information, such employer shall
203 complete and return the form to the local or regional board of
204 education requesting such information. A local or regional board of
205 education may request more information concerning any response
206 made by a current or former employer, and, notwithstanding the
207 provisions of said subsection (f), such employer shall respond not later
208 than sixty days after receiving such request; and

209 (3) Request information from the Department of Education
210 concerning (A) the eligibility status for employment of any applicant
211 for the position, (B) whether the department has knowledge that the
212 applicant has been disciplined for a finding of abuse or sexual
213 misconduct and any information concerning such a finding, and (C)
214 whether the department has received notification of criminal charges
215 pending against the applicant and any information concerning such
216 charges.

217 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of section 31-
218 51i, any local or regional board of education that receives information
219 that an applicant for a position with or an employee of the board has
220 been disciplined for a finding of abuse or sexual misconduct shall
221 notify the Department of Education of such information.

222 (c) No local or regional board of education shall employ an
223 applicant for a position involving direct student contact who does not
224 comply with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this
225 section.

226 (d) A local or regional board of education may employ or contract
227 with an applicant on a temporary basis for a period not to exceed
228 ninety days, pending such board's review of information received
229 under this section, provided:

230 (1) The applicant complied with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
231 this section;

232 (2) The board has no knowledge of information pertaining to the
233 applicant that would disqualify the applicant from employment with
234 the board; and

235 (3) The applicant affirms that the applicant is not disqualified from
236 employment with such board.

237 (e) No local or regional board of education shall enter into a

238 collective bargaining agreement, an employment contract, and an
239 agreement for resignation or termination, a severance agreement or
240 any other contract or agreement or take any action that:

241 (1) Has the effect of suppressing information relating to an
242 investigation of a report of suspected abuse or sexual misconduct by a
243 current or former employee;

244 (2) Affects the ability of the local or regional board of education to
245 report suspected abuse or sexual misconduct to appropriate
246 authorities; or

247 (3) Requires the local or regional board of education to expunge
248 information about an allegation or a finding of suspected abuse or
249 sexual misconduct from any documents maintained by the board,
250 unless after investigation such allegation is dismissed or found to be
251 false.

252 (f) No local or regional board of education shall offer employment
253 to a person as a substitute teacher, unless such person and the board
254 comply with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. The board
255 shall determine which such persons are employable as substitute
256 teachers and maintain a list of such persons. No board shall hire any
257 person as a substitute teacher who is not on such list. Such person shall
258 remain on such list as long as such person is continuously employed
259 by the board as a substitute teacher, as described in subsection (c) of
260 section 10-221d, as amended by this act, provided the board does not
261 have any knowledge of a reason that such person should be removed
262 from such list.

263 (g) In the case of an applicant who is a contractor, the contractor
264 shall require any employee with such contractor who would be in a
265 position involving direct student contact to supply to such contractor
266 all information required of an applicant under subparagraphs (A) and
267 (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and a written
268 authorization under subparagraph (B) of said subdivision. Such

269 contractor shall contact any current or former employer of such
270 employee and request any information concerning whether there was
271 a finding of abuse or sexual misconduct against such employee.
272 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of section 31-51i, such
273 employer shall report to the contractor any such finding. If the
274 contractor receives any information indicating such a finding or
275 otherwise has knowledge of such a finding, the contractor shall,
276 notwithstanding the provisions of said subsection (f), immediately
277 forward such information to any local or regional board of education
278 with which the contractor is under contract. Any local or regional
279 board of education that receives such information shall determine
280 whether such employee may work in a position involving direct
281 student contact at any school under the board's jurisdiction. No
282 determination by a local or regional board of education that any such
283 employer shall not work under any such contract in any such position
284 shall constitute a breach of such contract.

285 (h) Any applicant who provides false information or knowingly fails
286 to disclose information required in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
287 this section shall be subject to discipline by the employing local or
288 regional board of education that may include (1) denial of
289 employment, or (2) (A) termination of the contract of a certified
290 employee, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-151, or (B)
291 dismissal of a noncertified employee, provided such employee is
292 notified of the reason for such dismissal and is provided the
293 opportunity to file with the board, in writing, any response to the
294 information leading to the dismissal, which with the dismissal order
295 shall be part of the records of the board.

296 (i) Any employer who provides information in accordance with
297 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section or subsection (g) of this
298 section shall be immune from criminal and civil liability, provided the
299 employer did not knowingly supply false information.

300 (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-151c and subsection

301 (f) of section 31-51i, a local or regional board of education shall provide
302 upon request by any other local or regional board of education for the
303 purposes of an inquiry pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
304 this section or subsection (g) of this section or to the Commissioner of
305 Education pursuant to subsection (b) of this section any information
306 that the board has concerning a finding of abuse or sexual misconduct
307 by a subject applicant of any such inquiry.

308 (k) If the State Board of Education determines that a local or
309 regional board of education negligently or knowingly violated any
310 provision of this section, the State Board of Education may require the
311 local or regional board of education to forfeit of the total sum which is
312 paid to such board of education from the State Treasury, an amount to
313 be determined by the State Board of Education, which amount shall be
314 not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars.
315 The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a grant payment, as
316 determined by the commissioner, during the fiscal year following the
317 fiscal year in which noncompliance is determined pursuant to this
318 subsection.

319 (l) Local and regional boards of education shall report to the State
320 Board of Education any suspected violation by a contractor of the
321 provisions of subsection (a) or (g) of this section. The State Board of
322 Education shall review each such report to determine whether any
323 such provision was knowingly violated. The board shall make
324 available a list with each contractor found to have knowingly violated
325 said subsection (a) or (g) to local and regional boards of education. No
326 local or regional board of education shall contract with any such
327 contractor.

328 (m) For purposes of this section and section 10-221d, as amended by
329 this act, (1) "sexual misconduct" means any verbal, nonverbal, written
330 or electronic communication, or any other act directed toward or with
331 a student that is designed to establish a romantic or sexual relationship
332 with the student, including a sexual or romantic invitation, dating or

333 soliciting a date, engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog, making
334 sexually suggestive comments, self-disclosure or physical exposure of
335 a sexual, romantic or erotic nature and any other sexual, indecent,
336 romantic or erotic contact with a student; and (2) "abuse" means a
337 violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a,
338 or as described in section 46b-120.

339 (n) Prior to [hiring any person] offering employment to an
340 applicant, a local or regional board of education shall make a
341 documented good faith effort to contact [previous employers] each
342 former employer of the [person] applicant in order to obtain
343 information and recommendations which may be relevant to the
344 [person's] applicant's fitness for employment.

345 (o) No local or regional board of education shall offer employment
346 to any applicant who had any previous employment contract
347 terminated by a board or who resigned from such employment, if such
348 person has been convicted of a violation of section 17a-101a, regardless
349 of whether an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual assault has been
350 substantiated.

351 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 30, 2016, the
352 Department of Education shall make available to local and regional
353 boards of education a standardized form directing an employer to
354 provide information pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
355 section 10-222c, as amended by this act, to a local or regional board of
356 education requesting such information.

357 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-145 of the 2016 supplement to the
358 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
359 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

360 (a) No teacher, supervisor, administrator, special service staff
361 member or school superintendent, except as provided for in section 10-
362 157, shall be employed in any of the schools of any local or regional
363 board of education unless such person possesses an appropriate state

364 certificate, nor shall any such person be entitled to any salary unless
 365 such person can produce such certificate dated prior to or on the first
 366 day of employment, except as provided for in section 10-157; provided
 367 nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the board of
 368 education from prescribing qualifications additional to those
 369 prescribed by the regulations of the State Board of Education and
 370 provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent any
 371 local or regional board of education from contracting with a licensed
 372 drivers' school approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for
 373 the behind-the-wheel instruction of a driver instruction course, to be
 374 given by driving instructors licensed by the Department of Motor
 375 Vehicles. No person shall be employed in any of the schools of any
 376 local or regional board of education as a substitute teacher unless such
 377 person (1) holds a bachelor's degree, provided the Commissioner of
 378 Education may waive such requirement for good cause upon the
 379 request of a superintendent of schools, and (2) is on a list maintained
 380 by the local or regional board of education pursuant to subsection (f) of
 381 section 10-222c, as amended by this act.

382 Sec. 5. Section 10-221w of the 2016 supplement to the general
 383 statutes is repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2016*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-221d
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-222c
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-145(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that local and regional boards of education have information concerning whether an applicant has been found to have committed abuse or sexual misconduct and that local and regional boards of education share such findings with other boards of education who may employ such applicant.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]